THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, Auguſt 27, 1792.

Sketch of the preſent National Aſſembly of France.

By Miſs HELEN MARIA WILLIAMS.

I Have been ſeveral times at the National Aſſembly. The debates in this ſecond legiſlature are leſs intereſting than thoſe of the Conſtituent Aſſembly, where almoſt at every ſitting ſome pillar of the ancient ſyſtem was thrown down, and ſome part of the new fabric roſe majeſtically from its ruins. Neither does this Aſſembly diſplay the ſame blaze of talents which aſtoniſhed and dazzled in the other. She can boaſt of no Mirabeau, no tranſcendant genius

——" On the ample pinion,
That the Theban eagle bear,
Sailing with ſupreme dominion
Thro' the azure depths of air—
Yet will ſhe ſoar, and keep her equal way
——how far above the great!"

And one may apply to the genius of this Aſſembly what I lately read in a little collection of French letters, where the writer, ſpeaking of the talents for poetry, which prevail ſo generally in the ſouthern provinces of France, the country of the Troubadours, ſays, " Nobody has immenſe riches of genius in this country; but eaſy, even affluent fortunes are very common; and the ſum of poetical wealth is upon the whole far more conſiderable than if a great deal were accumulated upon one head."

There is a sufficient stock of ability in the National Assembly, animated as it is by the most important and exalted objects. A Member of the National Assembly knows that he is pleading not merely the cause of the people of France. He is speaking at the tribune of Europe, and he is pleading the cause of all the people of the earth. For it is now too late for the lovers of arbitrary power to consider the French revolution in the light in which they once affected to consider it. The time long ago is past, for terming that event an affair of accident, and the triumph of the rabble, which is found to have originated in the unanimous will of a great and enlightened nation, and has taught mankind a lesson, which perhaps the whole human race will be proud to learn.

I heard the decree passed in the National Assembly for confiscating the estates of the emigrants. They, and their chiefs, the French Princes, will probably soon tire the short-lived pity of foreign courts, and will be doomed to wander over Europe, as the adherents of the House of Stuart have done, poor, wretched, and abandoned. Yet how different the situation of the Scotch and French fugitives! How different the situation of the descendants of James the Second, and that of Lewis the Sixteenth! What are the misfortunes of Lewis the Sixteenth? He has been deprived of despotic power. What is his present situation? He is called by the consent of a free people to the crown of the greatest nation in Europe. The French Emigrants are not, therefore, influenced by the same generous motives which led the adherents of the House of Stuart to take up arms, which could be no other than a disinterested attachment to that family, in defence of which they risked their lives and fortunes. The French Emigrants, on the contrary, would deluge their native country with blood, sooner than renounce titles that were vain, and privileges that were odious.

ANECDOTE *of Mr.* THICKNESSE.

THE following is an extract of his will, which this eccentric man has published, in a letter to Lady Audley.

"I desire that after my death, my right hand may be cut off, and sent to Lord Audley, that he may see the *hand dead*, which, when living, had not only given him many guineas in his *youth*, which his father wanted in age, as well as an expensive education, with a view to what he was to be, rather than what he then was, sincerely hoping thereby that such a deadly sight

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may *awaken his deluded mind*, and teach him his duty to God, that he may obtain pardon for his neglect of a father, who once loved him with unbounded affection, and who dying, forgives him, as he does all his enemies."

A Comparative View of the Asiatic and American Continents, at the first Opening of a naval Intercourse with them.

[From Dr. Robertson's Historical Disquisition concerning Antient India.]

WHILE America continued to facilitate and extend the intercourse of Europe with Asia, it gave rise to a traffic with Africa, which, from slender beginnings, has become so considerable, as to form the chief bond of commercial connection with that continent. Soon after the Portuguese had extended their discoveries on the coast of Africa beyond the river Senegal, they endeavoured to derive some benefit from their new settlements there, by the sale of slaves. Various circumstances combined in favouring the revival of this odious traffic. In every part of America, of which the Spaniards took possession, they found that the natives, from the feebleness of their frame, from their indolence, or from the injudicious manner of treating them, were incapable of the exertions requisite either for working mines, or for cultivating the earth. Eager to find hands more industrious and efficient, the Spaniards had recourse to their neighbours the Portuguese, and purchased from them negro slaves. Experience soon discovered, that they were men of a more hardy race, and so much better fitted for enduring fatigue, that the labour of one negro was computed to be equal to that of four Americans; and from that time the number employed in the New World has gone on increasing with rapid progress. In this practice, no less repugnant to the feelings of humanity than to the principles of religion, the Spaniards have unhappily been imitated by all the nations of Europe, who have acquired territories in the warmer climates of the New World. At present the number of negro slaves in the settlements of Great Britain and France in the West Indies exceeds a million*; and as the establishment of servitude has been found, both in ancient and in modern times, extremely unfavourable to population, it requires an annual importation from Africa of at least fifty-eight thousand, to keep up

the ſtock. If it were poſſible to aſcertain, with equal exactneſs, the number of ſlaves in the Spaniſh dominions and in North America, the total number of negro ſlaves might be well reckoned at as many more.

Thus the commercial genius of Europe, which has given it a viſible aſcendant over the three other diviſions of the earth, by diſcerning their reſpective wants and reſources, and by rendering them reciprocally ſubſervient to one another, has eſtabliſhed an union among them, from which it has derived an immenſe increaſe of opulence, of power, and of enjoyments.

Though the diſcovery of a New World in the Weſt, and the opening of a more eaſy and direct communication with the remote regions of the Eaſt, co-operated towards extending the commerce, and adding to the enjoyments, of Europe, a remarkable difference may be obſerved, with reſpect both to the time and the manner in which they produced theſe effects. When the Portugueſe firſt viſited the different countries of Aſia, ſtretching from the coaſt of Malabar to China, they found them poſſeſſed by nations highly civilized, which had made conſiderable progreſs in elegant as well as uſeful arts, which were accuſtomed to intercourſe with ſtrangers, and well acquainted with all the advantages of commerce. But when the Spaniards began to explore the New World which they diſcovered, the aſpect which it preſented to them was very different. The iſlands were inhabited by naked ſavages, ſo unacquainted with the ſimpleſt and moſt neceſſary arts of life, that they ſubſiſted chiefly on the ſpontaneous productions of a fertile ſoil and genial climate. The continent appeared to be a foreſt of immenſe extent, along the coaſt of which were ſcattered ſome feeble tribes, not greatly ſuperior to the iſlanders in induſtry or improvement. Even its two large monarchies, which have been dignified with the appellation of civilized ſtates, had not advanced ſo far beyond their countrymen, as to be entitled to that name. The inhabitants, both of Mexico and Peru, unacquainted with the uſeful metals, and deſtitute of the addreſs requiſite for acquiring ſuch command of the inferior animals as to derive any aid from their labour, had made ſo little progreſs in agriculture, the firſt of all arts, that one of the greateſt difficulties with which the ſmall number of Spaniards, who overturned thoſe empires which have been ſo highly extolled, had to ſtruggle, was how to procure in them what was ſufficient for their ſubſiſtence.

It was of conſequence, with a very different ſpirit, that the intercourſe with two countries, reſembling each other ſo little

in their degree of improvement, was begun and carried on. The Portugueſe, certain of finding in the Eaſt, not only the productions with which the bountiful hand of nature has enriched that part of the globe, but various manufactures which had long been known and admired in Europe, engaged in this alluring trade with the greateſt eagerneſs. The encouragement of it their Monarchs conſidered as the chief object of government, towards which they directed all the power of the kingdom, and rouſed their ſubjects to ſuch vigorous exertions in the proſecution of it, as occaſioned that aſtoniſhing rapidity of progreſs which I have deſcribed. The ſanguine hopes with which the Spaniards entered upon their career of diſcovery, met not with the ſame ſpeedy gratification. From the induſtry of the rude inhabitants of the New World, they did not receive a ſingle article of commerce. Even the natural productions of the ſoil and climate, when not cheriſhed and multiplied by the foſtering and active hand of man, were of little account. Hope, rather than ſucceſs, incited them to perſiſt in extending their reſearches and conqueſts; and as government derived little immediate benefit from theſe, it left the proſecution of them chiefly to private adventurers, by whoſe enterpriſing activity, more than by any effort of the ſtate, the moſt valuable poſſeſſions of Spain in America were acquired. Inſtead of the inſtantaneous and great advantages which the Portugueſe derived from their diſcoveries, above half a century elapſed before the Spaniards reaped any benefit of conſequence from their conqueſts, except the ſmall quantities of gold which the iſlanders were compelled to collect, and the plunder of the gold and ſilver employed by the Mexicans and Peruvians as ornaments of their perſons and temples, or as utenſils of ſacred or domeſtic uſe. It was not until the diſcovery of the mines of Potoſi in Peru, in the year 1545, and of thoſe of Sacotecas in Mexico, ſoon after, that the Spaniſh territories in the New World brought a permanent and valuable addition of wealth and revenue to the mother country.

Nor did the trade with India differ more from that with America, in reſpect of the particular circumſtance which I have explained, than in reſpect to the manner of carrying it on, after it grew to be a conſiderable object of political attention. Trade with the Eaſt was a ſimple mercantile tranſaction, confined to the purchaſe either of the natural productions of the country, ſuch as ſpices, precious ſtones, pearls, &c. or of the manufactures which abounded among an induſtrious race of men, ſuch as ſilk and cotton ſtuffs, porcelane, &c. Nothing

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more was requisite in conducting this trade, than to settle a few skilful agents in proper places, to prepare a proper assortment of goods for completing the cargoes of ships as soon as they arrived from Europe, or at the utmost to acquire the command of a few fortified stations, which might secure them admission into ports where they might careen in safety, and find protection from the insults of an hostile power. There was no necessity of making any attempt to establish colonies, either for the cultivation of the soil, or the conduct of manufactures. Both these remained, as formerly, in the hands of the natives.

But as soon as that wild spirit of enterprize, which animated the Spaniards who first explored and subdued the New World, began to subside, and when, instead of roving as adventurers from province to province in quest of gold and silver, they seriously turned their thoughts towards rendering their conquests beneficial by cultivation and industry, they found it necessary to establish colonies in every country which they wished to improve. Other nations imitated their example in the settlements which they afterwards made in some of the islands, and on the continent of North America. Europe, after having desolated the New World, began to repeople it, and under a system of colonization (the spirit and regulations of which it is not the object of this disquisition to explain) the European race has multiplied there amazingly. Every article of commerce imported from the New World, if we except the furs and skins purchased from the independent tribes of hunters in North America, and from a few tribes in a similar state on the Southern continent, is the produce of the industry of Europeans settled there. To their exertions, or to those of hands which they have taught or compelled to labour, we are indebted for sugar, rum, cotton, tobacco, indigo, rice, and even the gold and silver extracted from the bowels of the earth. Intent on those lucrative branches of industry, the inhabitants of the New World pay little attention to those kinds of labour which occupy a considerable part of the members of other societies, and depend, in some measure, for their subsistence, and entirely for every article of elegance and luxury, upon the ancient continent. Thus the Europeans have become manufacturers for America, and their industry has been greatly augmented by the vast demands for supplying the wants of extensive countries, the population of which is continually increasing. Nor is the influence of this demand confined solely to the nations which have a more immediate connexion with the American colonies; it is felt in every part of Europe that furnishes any article exported

ported to them, and gives activity and vigour to the hand of the artisan in the inland provinces of Germany, as well as to those in Great Britain and other countries, which carry on a direct trade with the New World.

But while the discovery and conquest of America is allowed to be one principal cause of that rapid increase of industry and wealth, which is conspicuous in Europe during the two last centuries, some timid theorists have maintained, that throughout the same period Europe has been gradually impoverished, by being drained of its treasure, in order to carry on its trade with India. But this apprehension has arisen from inattention to the nature and use of the precious metals. They are to be considered in two different lights; either as the signs which all civilized nations have agreed to employ, in order to estimate or represent the value both of labour and of all commodities, and thus to facilitate the purchase of the former, and the conveyance of the latter from one proprietor to another; or gold and silver may be viewed as being themselves commodities or articles of commerce, for which some equivalent must be given by such as wish to acquire them. In this light, the exportation of the precious metals to the East should be regarded; for, as the nation by which they are exported must purchase them with the produce of its own labour and ingenuity, this trade must contribute, though not in the same obvious and direct manner as that with America, towards augmenting the general industry and opulence of Europe. If England, as the price of Mexican and Peruvian dollars which are necessary for carrying on its trade with India, must give a certain quantity of its woollen or cotten cloth or hard-ware, then the hands of an additional number of manufacturers are rendered active, and work to a certain amount must be executed, for which, without this trade, there would not have been any demand. The nation reaps all the benefit arising from a new creation of industry. With the gold and silver which her manufacturers have purchased in the West, she is enabled to trade in the markets of the East, and the exportation of treasure to India, which has been so much dreaded, instead of impoverishing, enriches the kingdom.

AN ANECDOTE.

AT the summer assizes, 7 Car. I. viz. in August 1631, at Salisbury, a condemned felon flung a brick-bat at Sir Thomas Richardson, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; which

which offence was immediately recorded, and judgment pronounced, that his right hand ſhould be cut off, and fixed to the gibbet, on which he was to be hanged; this ſentence of amputation and ſuſpenſion were both executed in open Court.

The Hiſtory of the Life of Baron Trenck. In which is introduced a particular Account of the extraordinary Sufferings which he underwent by Command of the late King of Pruſſia.

[Extracted from his own Narrative.]

(*Continued from Page* 196.)

I Returned to my barracks in all the raptures of joy, and an order came the next day for my releaſe. I went, with Count Alton, to the Counteſs Paar, who deſired to ſee me, and, by her mediation, I obtained a private audience of the Empreſs, by whom I was received in the kindeſt manner, and who promiſed to recompenſe me with that reward and repoſe which ſhe declared I deſerved to enjoy. At the ſame time, however, ſhe inſiſted, that I ſhould allow the will of the Auſtrian Trenck to be valid, renounce all claim on the Sclavonian eſtates, and, ſolemnly acquit my accountants and curators, relying alone on her Majeſty's favour. Such were the hard terms to which I was reduced, and for no other crime than refuſing to hear maſs, by which I had brought upon myſelf the hatred of the Jeſuits, one of whom was her Majeſty's confeſſor.

I was ſo much affected by the cruel uſage I received, that I fell dangerouſly ill, and during that time conſiderable depredations were made on my property. At length, however, I recovered, and addreſſed repeated memorials to the Empreſs, of which no notice was taken. Soon after I eagerly embraced an opportunity which offered of accompanying Marſhal Laudohn, whom I had always loved, to Aix la Chapelle, where we continued three months. At the cloſe of this period I returned to Vienna, where the Empreſs recommended me to marry an old woman of 63, becauſe ſhe had 50,000 florins a year. This I refuſed, alledging as a reaſon, that I was already engaged, which reply made the Empreſs extremely angry.

I returned to Aix la Chapelle in December, 1756, and married the youngeſt daughter of the former Burgomaſter De Broe.

Broe. He was dead: He had lived on his own estate at Brussels, where my wife was born, and educated. He had been called to this honourable office, by the unanimous voice of the citizens of Aix la Chapelle. He was the descendant of an ancient and noble family, in the province of Artois; and some of his predecessors, who possessed estates near Aix la Chapelle, had, I know not for what reason, accepted the dignity of Knights of the Roman Empire. My wife's mother was sister to the vice-chancellor of Dusseldorf, Baron Roberte, Lord of Roland.

My wife has been with me in most parts of Europe, where she has always been esteemed as she deserved. She then was young, handsome, worthy and virtuous, has borne me eleven children, all of whom she has nursed herself; eight of them are still living, and have been properly educated. God grant I may be enabled ever to provide for her as she deserves, and as is my duty. Two and twenty years has she borne a part in all my sufferings, and well deserves reward.

During my late short abode at Vienna, I made one effort more, I sought an audience from the present Emperor Joseph, related all that had happened to me, and particularly remarked such defects as I had observed in the government and regulations of the country. He gave me an attentive hearing, proved his desire to increase the happiness of his people, and commanded me to commit my thoughts to writing. This I accordingly performed, stating with precision, and unreserve, the observations I had made on affairs, civil, military, and economical.

My memorial, though graciously received, produced no effect. From 1774 to 1777 I chiefly spent my time in journeying through England and France. I was intimate with Dr. Franklin, the American Minister; and with the Counts St. Germain and de Vergennes, who made me advantageous proposals to go to America; but I was prevented accepting them by my affection for my wife and children.

My kind friend, the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, who had been Governor of Magdeburg during my imprisonment, offered me a commission in his service among the troops going to America: But I answered—

"Gracious Prince, my heart beats in the cause of freedom only, I will never assist in enslaving men. Were I at the head of your brave grenadiers, I should revolt to the Americans."

In May, 1780, I went to Aix la Chapelle, where my wife's mother died, in July, and, in September, my wife, myself, and family, all came to Vienna.

My wife solicited the mistress of the ceremonies, to obtain an audience. Her request was granted; and she had the good fortune to gain the entire approbation and favour of the Empress. Her kindness was beyond expression: She herself introduced my wife to the Arch-Dutchess, as an example for women, and commanded her grand mistress of the ceremonies to present her every where. "You were unwilling," said she, "to accompany your husband into my country, but I hope to convince you that you may live happier in Austria, than at Aix la Chapelle." She said many other things equally kind.

She next day sent me her decree, assuring me of a pension of four hundred florins, adding this should not be all she would do for me.

My wife petitioned the Empress to grant me an audience; her request was complied with, and the Empress said to me, "This is the third time in which I would have made your fortune, had you been so disposed." The audience lasted long; her discourse was that of a matron. She desired to see my children, adding, "So excellent a mother must have brought you charming children."

We departed for Zwerbach, where we lived contentedly, but, when we were preparing to return to Vienna, and solicit the restitution of a part of my lost fortune during this momentary sunshine of the Court, the great Teresa died, and all my hopes were overcast.

On the 22d of August, 1786, the news arrived that Frederic the Great had left this world!

The present reigning monarch, the best among the friends of men, the witness of my sufferings in my native country, immediately sent me a royal passport for Berlin. The confiscation of my estates was annulled, and my deceased brother, in Prussia, had left my children his heirs!

I was still unfortunate. I was again taken ill, and prevented from going to Berlin. At length, however, I recovered, and after overcoming a variety of obstacles, found it necessary to make a journey into Hungary, where I met with the most flattering reception. I went to Berlin soon after, where the King received me with remarkable condescension, as did with great regard the distinguished personages who attended at that court. On the 13th of February, 1787, I had a private audience

audience of the magnanimous Frederic William. He nobly consoled me for the past, and parted from me with tokens of confirmed esteem and condescension.

The personal qualites of Frederic William merit to be described. He is tall and handsome, his mien is majestic, and his accomplishments of mind and body would procure him the love of men, were he not a King. He is affable without deceit, friendly and kind in conversation, and stately when stateliness is necessary. His step is firm, his voice sonorous, his tone commanding, his heart capable of the noblest sentiments, and so benevolent that his greatest happiness is in the happiness of others. He is bountiful, but not profuse; he knows that, without œconomy, the Prussian power must sink. He is not tormented by the spirit of conquest, he wishes harm to no nation, yet will he not certainly suffer other nations to make encroachments, nor will he be terrified by menaces. That he is a soldier and a General, his great instructor and predecessor has, long since, borne testimony. He is, likewise, convinced how necessary it is that the King of a military state should be the friend of military men.

The hour of quitting Berlin, and continuing my journey into Prussia, toward Königsberg, my native country, approached. On the eve of my departure, I had once again the happiness of conversing, more than two hours, with her Royal Highness the Princess Amelia, sister of Frederick the Great. Possessed of native greatness of mind, and deep penetration, she solely had the honour of gaining the entire confidence and friendship of Frederick. She, as far as she was able, protected me in my hour of extreme adversity; heaped benefits upon me, and, more than any other person in the world, contributed to gain my deliverance. Not as a foreign officer did she receive me, during my stay in Berlin, but as a friend, as an aged patriot; and laid her commands upon me to write immediately to my wife, and request that she would come to Berlin, in the month of June, with her two eldest daughters. I received her promise that the happiness of the latter should be her care; nay, that she would certainly remember my wife in her will.

At this moment, when about to depart, she affectionately asked me if I had money sufficient for the expences of my journey: "Yes, Madam," was my reply; "for myself I want nothing, ask nothing; but may you remember my children!"

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The sensibility, the deep feeling with which I pronounced these words, moved the Princess; she shewed me how perfectly she comprehended my meaning, took me by the hand, and said, "Return, my friend, quickly; I shall be most happy to see you."

I hastily left the room; a kind of indecision came over me. I was inclined to remain some days longer at Berlin. Had I done so, my presence would most indubitably have been of great advantage to my children. Alas! ever under the guidance of my evil genius, I began my journey. The clear prospect of futurity was instantly overclouded; the principal purpose for which I came to Berlin frustrated; for, five days after my departure, the Princess Amelia died!

(To be concluded in our next.)

An interesting Inscription on a Monument in All Saints Church, in Northampton.

A Handsome monument has been lately put up in the portico of All Saints church, in Northampton; and as the calamitous circumstance which it is intended to commemorate is still fresh in the memories of many people, the inscription will probably be acceptable to our readers:

"This marble was erected to perpetuate the memory of the following awful dispensation of Providence:—At one o'clock in the morning of the 27th of February, 1792, the lower part of the house of H. Marriott on the Market-Hill, was discovered to be on fire; and the flames ascending with dreadful rapidity, he was obliged to leave his affrighted little ones hovering round their distracted mother; and, by an extraordinary effort, gained the roof of an adjoining house, calling aloud for that help, which, alas! could not be procured; for, in a few moments, his *whole family*, consisting of a beloved wife, five children, and two lodgers, perished in the flames.

READER,

"If the Almighty has hitherto preserved thee from scenes of deep distress, let thy heart glow with gratitude; and at the same time let thy bosom expand with benevolence towards thy suffering fellow-creatures.

"The sad remains of this unfortunate family were carefully collected and decently interred in this church-yard."

Curious

Curious Particulars in Natural Hiſtory.

[From Voyages to the Madeira and Leeward Caribbean Iſlands, by Maria R******.]

SHEEP.

IN Antigua the ſheep ſoon loſe their woolly fleece. Providence has clothed them with a lank brown hair inſtead; which, though it diminiſhes their beauty, is infinitely more ſerviceable to them in point of coolneſs.

WILD CATS.

A breed of wild cats ſubſiſts in the woods here; they are twice the ſize of the domeſtic cat, and frequently carry off the young lambs and kids. They are very uſeful, however, in deſtroying the numerous tribe of rats that infeſt the cane lands. Their fur is extremely fine. The negroes ſell it for a ſhilling a ſkin; they kill them to eat their fleſh, which they regard as a great dainty.

THE OPOSSUM.

This animal is of the ſize of a domeſtic cat; its ſhape ſomewhat reſembles a weaſel; the noſe is long, and not unlike that of a hog; the ears round, ſhort, erect, and tipt with black; the legs are ſhort, and generally of that colour likewiſe; the fur is of a greyiſh brown; beneath the belly hangs a looſe ſkin like a bag, which the opoſſum can dilate and contract at pleaſure, and in which it ſecures its young ones when alarmed or purſued, by the hunters. When the dogs approach, it feigns death, and, by that means, is ſure to eſcape, as the canine race do not prey upon its fleſh, but only hunt it out of wantonneſs. The breed however is almoſt extinct here.

HUMMING BIRDS.

Two ſpecies of the humming bird, or honeyſucker, are found in Antigua; the *trochilus mellivorus*, and the *trochilus polytmus*, (of Linnæus) neither of them is much longer than the common butterfly, and they are both beautiful beyond deſcription. The plumage of the humming bird, when expanded in the ſun, exhibits all the lucid tints of the rainbow; the head, neck, and back, are of a reſplendent variable green and gold; the wings azure; the breaſt and tail of a ſapphire blue; a ſparkling creſt, that might be miſtaken for a poliſhed emerald, riſes on the head of the trochilus polytmus, which is much ſmaller than the other kind, and infinitely more beautiful; the bill of the humming bird is near an inch long,

long, curved, black, and polifhed like ebony; the tongue is cylindrical, and much longer than the bill; it ferves as a trunk to extract the honied effences lodged in the nectaria of flowers; for this bird fubfifts entirely by fuction; the eyes, from their colour and brilliancy, refemble two beads of polifhed fteel.—They fly with extreme fwiftnefs, and the wings, as they cut the air, make a noife like the buzzing of a humble bee, but much louder: the motion of the wings is fo rapid as even to be perfectly imperceptible. The humming birds are fearlefs of mankind; they will fuffer you to approach clofe to them while they remain fufpended under a bloffom to extract its aromatic juices. This little wonder of nature is perhaps one of the boldeft of the feathered race; it frequently attacks, and never fails of defeating, any plumed adverfary, however fuperior in ftrength and fize. The weapon it employs on thefe occafions is its bill, which is fharp and pointed like a needle; it plunges it either in the enemy's eye, or the flefhy part under his wing. The neft is of an hemifpherical fhape, and wove with cotton, which they pick from the pods, when fplit open by the fun; they faften it to the bough of a tree by drawing a few threads round it, and cementing them with a little odoriferous gum drawn from the flowers. The outfide is generally fortified with a few citron or orange leaves, twined in with the cotton. It is doubtful whether the mechanifm of this neft, or its admirable architects, are moft worthy of admiration. The humming bird lays two eggs, each the fize of a large pea.

LIZARDS.

A variety of the *lacertae* or lizard fpecies inhabit the trees here. The *guana (lacerta iguana* of Linnæus) is the largeft in Antigua. It is fometimes upward of fix feet long; with a creft indented like the teeth of a comb, two inches high, beginning on the crown of the head, and gradually diminifhing to the point of his tail; under his jaw hangs a large bag, which he can dilate with air, or exhauft at pleafure. The guana is of various colours, but moft commonly it is either brown, green, or blue. It is perfectly harmlefs. Its fole weapon of defence is its tail, with which, however, it can give a violent blow.—This reptile is often eaten in the Weft Indies. They pretend its flefh is as delicate as that of a chicken. The extraordinary fpecies of lizard called the wood-flave *(lacerta gekko)* is frequently feen in this ifland. It is about feven or eight inches long; his tail fhort, thick, and blunt at the point; his feet have five femi-palmated toes, with fharp claws, wherewith he adheres

heres ſtrongly even to ſmooth perpendicular ſurfaces; the eye is formed like a cat's, the pupil being long and narrow, and ending above and below in a point; the eye has a ſingular and faſcinating glare; and it is altogether a loathſome and diſagreeable animal. The wood-ſlave is one of the moſt venomous reptiles found in theſe iſlands. A gummy fluid exudes from all the pores, which bliſters and ulcerates the ſkin of thoſe who touch it. And under each claw is a ſmall bag filled with a thick blue-coloured matter, which is ſaid to be the chief ingredient uſed in the compoſition of the famous Malay poiſon, well known in the Eaſt Indies.

The common lizards are uſually from ten to fifteen inches long. The ground lizard is commonly of the colour of the earth on which it creeps; but thoſe that affect living among trees are always of a vivid green like the foliage they inhabit. The body of the lizard is covered with ſhining pellucid ſcales, that aſſume a variety of glowing colours every time they move, beſide their having the peculiarity of turning as black as jet if frightened. The tradition of this reptile's being attracted by, and faſcinated with, the ſound of muſic, is a fact of which, by experience, I can aſſert the veracity. I have frequently, when ſitting in the garden, ſung an air in a ſoft voice, which, in a few minutes, would draw the lizards from the ſhrubs and trees around to the ſpot where I was; where they would remain with their little heads gently inclined, their eyes immoveably rivetted to the place from whence the ſound proceeded, and their gloſſy ſcales preſenting a thouſand different hues every moment; but, as ſoon as the air ceaſed, the charm was broke, and the lizards made a precipitate retreat, and concealed themſelves among the buſhes. This experiment I have frequently tried, and never once found it vary in its ſucceſs. Indeed it is a well known fact in the Weſt Indies, that, when the negroes want to catch lizards, (which are a wholeſome and favourite food with them) the art they employ to allure them into their hands is whiſtling. All the lizard ſpecies are oviparous, and lay a ſoft egg of the conſiſtence of a jelly.

The Sea Devil.

Among the various kinds of fiſhes in theſe ſeas, is the ſtring ray, the ſea devil, or *raia marta*, which is of a hideous aſpect; the body flat, about twelve feet in length, and ſeventeen in breadth; the mouth is four feet wide; the body is about two feet in thickneſs; the tail is fourteen feet long, and tapers to a fine point. One of theſe monſters was killed at Rendezvous

Bay

Bay in this iſland, and it required ſeven yoke of oxen to drag him on ſhore.

The Cat Fish.

The cat-fiſh, the *barracuda*, which is a fiſh of dreadful voracity, that frequently attacks and devours the men here when they bathe in the open ſea. It is more dangerous to encounter the barracuda than even the ſhark; for that fiſh, having his mouth placed beneath a long projecting ſnout, is obliged to turn on his back before he can devour his prey, which gives an opportunity, or at leaſt a chance, of eſcape, (for many of our bold ſwimmers carry cutlaſſes in the water with them, and, while the ſhark is turning, they are ſometimes lucky enough to give them a mortal blow) whereas the barracuda is very ſwift, comes with open mouth, and has ſuch prodigious agility, that it is impoſſible to elude his rapacious jaw.

The Borer.

In Antigua is a very miſchievous inſect of the *phalæna*, or moth ſpecies, the *eruca ſaccharivora*, which, in its caterpillar ſtate, is called the borer, from its property of perforating the body of the ſugar cane, ſucking out the juice, and reducing the pith to powder. This inſect has long been a peſt to the colonies, and it is impoſſible to extirpate it. Repeated experiments have been tried for the purpoſe; but none have yet ſucceeded. They are ſo extremely hardy, that an attempt was once made to kill one of them, by throwing it in a bottle of ſpirits of wine (an inſtantaneous death to all other inſects), yet the borer was found floating about, alive and briſk, nine and thirty hours after. In form it reſembles the white round maggot that breeds in the ſhell of the filberd.

Wasps.

The blue ichneumon waſp is one of the moſt beautiful of the winged inſects here. The body and wings reſemble a brilliant blue foil, and the long feelers that adorn the head are of a deep orange colour. The free maſon waſp is ſo domeſtic as to build its neſt, which is made of mud or clay, in the inhabited chambers of houſes, and even under the teſter of the beds, and is found here. It is very harmleſs, and ſeldom, if ever, ſtings.

Scorpions.

The ſcorpions here, though of no great magnitude, are extremely venomous. Their bodies are of a compreſſed ſhape, covered with lamellated ſcales. They have eight legs, and next

the head are placed two long arms, terminated by a pair of sharp indented nippers. The tail is longer than the whole body; it consists of several joints of equal lengths, and at the end of them is the sting, which is of an incurvated shape, and a bag of poisonous liquid is suspended at the root of it. The scorpion is viviparous, and brings forth young but once; for the little brood, in a week or two after their birth, fasten themselves on their parent's back, and suck her to death. This furious little animal is frequently known to sting itself in the head, when caught alive, and confined without means of escape.

Tarantula.

A kind of tarantula too is found here, which resides chiefly in rocky places and among old ruins. The bite occasions convulsions and stranguries, and sometimes proves mortal. But the idea of the patient's being relieved by the sound of musick is perfectly fabulous.

Animal Flower.

Three species of the *ascidia*, or animal flower, are found adhering to the rocks in this island. This extraordinary animal is somewhat of a worm or grub, with a circular bunch of tentaculæ, round its mouth; this, when expanded, resembles a carnation or pink, and is often of the most lively and glowing colours. A slender tube attached to a rock contains the body of the animal, which appears like the stalk, and into which, when alarmed, it withdraws its spreading flower; but soon puts it forth again, as its use, like a casting net, is to inclose and convey into the mouth smaller insects for its food. The larger kind have no tube or covering, but adhere to the rock in holes and chinks by means of many thousand little tubes or suckers placed on all parts of its body. The head is adorned with five short stalks, each forming a small radius like an umbellated flower, every small radius composing a part of the larger one. The colours of this species of ascidia are generally either brown or black.

The Cashew Tree.

The *anacardium-acajou*, or cashew tree, is a low, wide-spreading-tree; the branches crooked and straggling, and the leaves oval; the fruit, which is called here the cherry, is somewhat like a large apple; it is of a pale yellow, but the side that faces the sun is usually diffused with a lovely blush; it has a very fragant smell, and is full of a rough astringent juice, which

is however very pleaſant to the taſte. At the top of the cherry grows a naked ſeed, ſhaped like a ſheep's kidney, called the caſhew-nut; the kernel is eaten when roaſted, and has a very fine flavour. It is enveloped with a thin ſhell, that contains an oily inflammable fluid, which is very cauſtic. The ladies in the Weſt India iſlands make uſe of it to extract the freckles from their faces. They ſometimes ſpread it all over their hands, neck, and face; and in a few days, the ſkin peals off in great flakes, after which the complexion appears for ſome time exquiſitely fair, but is more liable to ſun-burn than ever; beſide the pain of this operation is excruciating. The milky juice of the acajou is often employed to ſtain the initials of a name in linen; it leaves a jetty mark that will not eraſe by waſhing. An exceeding fine gum exudes from the bark of this tree when perforated.

The Manchineel Tree.

The *hypomane lacteſcens*, or manchineel tree, grows chiefly by the banks of the ſea. Its verdure, its foliage, and the beautiful apple it bears, would render it the moſt delightful tree within the tropics, were it not perhaps one of the moſt deſtructive. The bark is filled with a thick, clammy, lacteſcent fluid, which is ſo ſubtle a poiſon that the Caribbs and Indians dip the points of their arrows in it when they wiſh the wounds they inflict to prove mortal. The very foliage of the tree is ſo venomous, that, if you ſeek ſhelder under its branches in a ſhower of rain, the drops that chance to fall on you, if they have touched the leaves, will bliſter your ſkin. The manchineel apple is certain death, if eaten. The wood of this tree is ſuperior, with reſpect to hardneſs, poliſh, and colour, as well as fineneſs of grain, to the beſt mahogany.

The Sand-box Tree.

The *hura crepitans*, or ſand-box tree, is remarkable for the fruit it bears, which is about the ſize of an orange, of a globular compreſſed ſhape, and divided into ſeveral cells, from about ten or twelve in number, each cell incloſing a flat ſeed. The ſand-box is an entire hard ſhell, without any pulp; the cells are divided by thin membranes. When the fruit is ripe, it ſplits and falls from the tree, and the ſeeds are ſcattered to a great diſtance round it. The ſand-box ſplits with prodigious elaſticity, and accompanied with a noiſe as loud as the report of a piſtol. The centre of this extraordinary capſule is hollow, and perforated with a number of little points at the top, which has

applied

applied to it the name of ſand-box, as it can be adapted to that purpoſe extremely well. The ſeeds of this fruit are very purgative.

The Manioc Plant.

This plant riſes with a ſtraight ſimple ſtem, to the height of ſeven or eight feet. The ſtalk is nearly black, and, at the top, it bears a cluſter of dark palmated leaves. The root is a deadly poiſon; yet, when the milky liquor it contains is expreſſed from it, it is converted into a bread called *caſſava*: the Negroes make it their chief diet, and prepare it themſelves, which is done by means of a wooden engine, extremely ſimple in its conſtruction, and managed by a wheel, while the manioc root, after being thoroughly peeled, waſhed, raſped, and pulverized till it is reduced to the conſiſtence of ſaw-duſt, is preſſed between two flat boards, which finally ſqueezes out the poiſonous fluid: It is then dried in the ſun, and baked into large, flat, circular cakes, which, when toaſted and buttered, are criſp and very pleaſant to the taſte.

The Indian Arrow Root.

The *maranta-galango*, or Indian arrow root, ſprings from a moſt valuable medicinal root, which, when pulverized, is white, and reſembles fine ſtarch or hair-powder. It is mixed with warm water, which cauſes it to thicken to a gelatinous conſiſtency, and it is then adminiſtered as a remedy in dyſenteries and many other tropical complaints. It is one of the moſt wholeſome and nouriſhing foods imaginable for people in a weak debilitated ſituation, or ſubject to nervous diſorders. This plant takes its name from being an effectual antidote againſt the venom of the poiſoned arrows made uſe of by the Caribbs.

A SPECIMEN *of* ORTHOGRAPHY.

STOLEN or STRAYED 4 hew Sheep a Black Ram and on Wether A Black hew 6 years ould A Black ram on year ould A Weight hew 3 years ould 2 hew ſheep on year ould and on Wether 1 year ould with A toop in the farther year and A Square Spad uppon the Near year and Sined With the I C whoSoever will Give News of the ſame onto ——— of ——— Shall have 5 Shillings Reward.

N. B. By what I can learn (ſays the correſpondent who ſent us the copy of this ſpecimen) all the ſheep miſſing are but 4.

Answer, by Fidelio, of Bath, to Lysimachus's Question, inserted August 3, 1789.

THE question is ambiguous, it not being determinable which is meant, the value of the estate for the *joint* lives of the two given ages (*i. e.* as long as they exist together), or for the *longest* of them; that is, as long as either continues in being: I shall, therefore, give a solution on both of these suppositions; and first for the joint lives of any two given ages by this general rule: Let r = the rate of interest, v = the perpetuity (= 100 ÷ r) n = the complement of the youngest life to 86 years, m = the complement of the oldest life, and p = the value of an estate certain for m years, at the given rate. Then the value of any two joint lives, supposing the decrements of life equal, will be $v - \frac{v+1}{n} \times \overline{n-m-2v-1} \times \frac{p}{m} + 2v$; which in the present case is nearly = 9.3 years purchase; r being = 6, v = 16.666, n = 64, m = 51, and p = 15.813. Therefore 9.3 × 350l. (the yearly value of the estate) = 3255l. the present value for the joint lives.

And secondly, for the longest of the two lives:

The values of the two single lives of the given ages, are, by the sixth table of Dr. Price's Annuities (interest at six per cent.) 12.177 and 11.189. The sum of these two values is 23.366; and the value of the joint lives as found above is 9.3; therefore 23.366 − 9.3 = 14.066 years purchase; which multiplied by 350 gives 4923l. for the value of the estate on the longest of the two lives.—Q. E. D.

N. B. The foregoing solutions are conformable to Dr. Price's rules (see his Annuities), which agree nearly with Mr. de Moivre's. Mr. Simpson's Tables bring the answers out something different.

Answer, by Fidelio, of Bath, to J. Collins's Anagram, inserted June 4.

I Read your anagram, and hope
I can the same expound;
For 'tis notorious that a ROPE
In every ship is found.

From

From which by tranſpoſition we
May eaſily explore,
The Scripture name muſt PEOR be,
The paſſage meant—a PORE.

Anſwer, by T. Walker, of Hemyock, to Quietus's Charade, inſerted June 4.

SEE-SAW, at which the children play,
Shews your charade without delay.

Anſwer, by M. Barrett junior, of Exeter, to H. Croſs's Rebus, inſerted June 4.

A River running in New Spain,
Call'd PLATA, is the one you mean.

‡ We have received the like anſwer from Fidelio, of Bath; S. Hill, of Dawliſh; and T. T. S. of Exeter.

A REBUS, *by J. Chivers, of St. Auſtle.*

A Male, gents, obtain; a box next explain;
And laſtly a name you muſt find;
If theſe parts you connect, you will then, Sirs, detect,
A town that's juſt come to my mind.

A CHARADE, *by T. Taylor, of Bickington.*

WHEN blooming ſpring pours forth its ray,
To fertilize the plain;
Where lovely Ceres bears a ſway,
My firſt you may obtain.

When ſummer doth its ray ſpread out,
With each refreſhing gale;
Then from my firſt my next doth ſpout
In every fruitful vale.

This ſimple verſe, which I addreſs,
You may with eaſe deſcribe;
Theſe parts combine, and you'll define,
One of the feather'd tribe.

POETRY.

POETRY.

ANGLING *for* TROUT.

Hic Piſces fallit Calamo, Linoque ſequaci.

[From Poems on ſeveral Occaſions, by the Rev. Joſeph Good.]

WHEN clouds, diſtended with refreſhing rain,
Had quench'd the ſun-burnt hills, and gaping plains;
And ſtreams, deſcending with impetuous force,
Stain'd and increas'd each river's winding courſe,
Pleas'd at the proſpect, at the wiſh'd for ſight,
Piſcator's boſom throbb'd with vaſt delight.
Not more the ſchool-boy hails the grateful day,
Allotted all to mind-relaxing play.
Lightly he treads t'wards the diſcolour'd brook,
With taper rod, and fiſh-deluding hook.
Who can the features of his face expreſs!
All lively! with the thoughts of ſure ſucceſs.
Imagination hurries him away
Where ſhoals of fiſh in tinkling currents play.
Ere to the river's bank he can repair,
He's truly, in his fancy, preſent there.
What fiſhes, long before, he ſeems to find!
Fiſhes! exiſting only in his mind.
Afar he ſpies the brook's meand'ring theme;
Brook! not unworthy of a poet's theme;
Whoſe wanton waves in purling eddies play,
And gently work along a winding way.
Impatient, then, behold him on its ſide,
Looking attentive at the babbling tide.
There, where the dimpled ſtream, with downward force,
Under the bank had eat its mazy courſe,
All things conſpire to gratify his wiſh
Of taking, quickly, ſome unwary fiſh;

Repeated

Repeated twitchings at the bait demand
A keen, attentive eye, and ſteady hand.
Forward he bends, and with a ſkill divine,
Obeys the motion of his nodding line.
The flutt'ring fiſh upon the ſurface lies,
And, like the world, to pleaſe his palate dies.
The gaſping trout he views with joyous pride,
His ſcaly coat, and roſy-ſpotted ſide.
Fir'd with ſucceſs, he baits his deathful hook,
Mov'd with the ſtreams adown the riſing brook.
Whole ſhoals of fiſh the floating bait ſurvey,
With finny force divide the watry way,
And throng impatient to the fatal prey.
Here, then, behold a trout, whoſe piercing eye
The bait remarks, but can't the cheat deſcry,
Cautiouſly nibbles, 'till impatient grown,
With greedy ſwallow ſucks his ruin down.
So huge a fiſh deſerves his utmoſt care,
Whoſe vig'rous ſtruggles ſtrain the ſtretching hair.
See! how the fetter'd trout the line extends!
See! how in curves the pliant hazel bends.
Adown the ſtream the dying captive flies,
Now tries to break the line, but vainly tries;
His vigour almoſt ſpent, his ſtrength decay'd,
Upon the ſummit of the water laid,
With ſtruggling he no more deforms the brook,
But falls a victim to the fatal hook.
Meanwhile, around, the forked light'nings fly,
And peals of thunder rend the black'ning ſky,
Shelter he ſeeks, and thro' the gloomy glade
Flies to ſome poplar's hoſpitable ſhade.
What mighty change his aſpect undergoes!
As clouds ſucceed, and whiſtling Auſter blows,
The beams of pleaſure from his features fly,
Grown now as joyleſs as the low'ring ſky.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

Addreſſed to a Lady near Briſtol, whoſe maternal Tenderneſs and unwearied Attention to a young Stranger, of the Author's Acquaintance, who met with a fatal and melancholy Accident, were exemplary.

WHILE others tune their harps to all the various joys
Which winning pleaſure yields, and dance along

In

In full expectance of her promis'd bliss,
Permit the unletter'd muse, the theme of
Sweet benevolence, and to hail the virtuous stranger
In whose breast it dwells! Yes, 'tis thee I hail!
Thou whose soft compassion pours the oil and wine
O'er ev'ry wound of the young bleeding stranger!
Nor pours the oil, nor binds the wounds alone,
But bids maternal cares succeed,
And with unwearied tenderness perform a parent's part!
Thus employ'd I view thee, and beholding
Bless the God-like act. What tho' thy every effort's vain,
And the stern hand of fate, the promis'd pleasure
Of returning life deny? Yet let me pour
The tributary lay of grateful praise
Due to such boundless love.
Oh! listen to a stranger muse, whose heart,
Tho' bleeding at the awful stroke, made by the
Great tyrant death, yet feels sweet gratitude
In every vein and feel ng—thus she sings:
" Thou kind Samaritan! who the sacred truth confirm'st
" Thy great fore-runner taught, that—soft compassion
" Dwells in virtuous breasts, and is what goodness loves.
" Accept the tear, the tribute, and the song,
" Which gratitude inspires. How great the good
" Thine hand hath wrought! The deed how noble!
" Be its memorial lasting! as thy joys perpetual!
" I see thy pitying soul melting with sorrow at the
" Father's woes, when he beholds his son mangled with
" Wounds and lifeless! I hear thee pour consolatory strains
" To mitigate her griefs, nor dost thou speak in vain.
" The mourner hears the stranger, friend, Samaritan,
" In soft condolence still suggest, sweet comfort!
" And hearing he believes—believes—
" And in belief, feels sacred peace, and heavenly consolation—
" Joys, which not the unthinking busy throng,
" Or give or take away!"

August 13, 1792.

EPITAPH *on a* LAWYER.

HIC *jacet Johannes Straw*,
Who forty years follow'd the law;
When he died,
The Devil cried,
" John, give us your paw!"